

2015 Annual Report

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Letter from the Executive Director

The year 2015 was not a happy one for the Security Council. Amid political divisions, meaningful decisions were increasingly hard to achieve. During the fifth year of a war in Syria that has exacted a death toll of 470,000 and displaced half the country's population, including 4.8 million refugees, the Council again proved unable to promote a cessation of violence or progress towards a political solution; where there was agreement on humanitarian access, its impact on the ground was limited, and any glimmers of political progress were negotiated outside the Council. The political crisis in Yemen exploded into open warfare involving external actors, while efforts to find a negotiated path out of conflict in Libya amid the growing presence of terrorist groups struggled to overcome regional as well as internal divisions. Although a fragile agreement was eventually imposed on South Sudan, the UN mission there had to devote much of its resources to protection of civilians at UN sites, while further evidence of horrific human rights violations emerged. The Council made little impact on Sudan's hostility to the joint UN-AU mission in Darfur, or on the mission's limited effectiveness. The greatest toll of death and injury to peacekeepers continued as a result of terrorist attacks in Mali, where prospects for implementation of an eventual peace agreement were uncertain. Efforts to stabilise the security situation in the Central African Republic were overshadowed by multiple reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. Long-standing missions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire evolved towards closure, but those in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq had to compete on a crowded Council agenda for the attention that worrying trends there merited, and Council divisions crippled its attempts to head off the crisis in Burundi.

In July 2015, we saw vetoes used twice in a single month, for the first time in many years, on two separate issues: Russia prevented the Council from adopting a resolution that would have commemorated the 20th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica, and then another that would have established an international criminal tribunal to prosecute those responsible

for the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17. Proposals for veto restraint in the case of mass atrocity crimes gained the support of many member states, stimulated by the four vetoes cast in tandem by Russia and China in 2011, 2012 and 2014 to prevent action on the Syria crisis.

The frustration of elected members of the Council at working methods which have increasingly entrenched the dominance of the P5 and limited the space for initiatives, or even effective consultation, of elected members, was openly expressed. Looking back on the first year of New Zealand's term, its permanent representative was forthright: "...very few of discussions in which we have participated could be characterized as genuine attempts at problem resolution. What we have seen instead are set piece statements, rigid positioning, and attempts to publicly embarrass and undermine other Council members, even within our so-called informal consultations."

The year 2015 was marked by the publication of results of three peace and security reviews: by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the Advisory Group of Experts on the Peacebuilding Architecture and the Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. After initial welcomes, it remained to be seen how far their critiques would modify Council practice in the future.

The insistence of a broad majority of member states in the General Assembly compelled the P5 to go along with a consensus in favour of a transparent process for appointment of a new Secretary-General in 2016, with unprecedented involvement of the General Assembly to include public hearings with candidates. Council members began discussing implications for its own recommendation process.

Security Council Report kept our readers abreast of all these issues and dynamics in the Council, including with research reports on the veto and the appointment of the Secretary-General. We marked our tenth anniversary with a symposium at which our first two Executive Directors opened a discussion on "The Security

Security Council Report
One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 2nd Ave at 48th St, 21st Floor
New York NY 10017

Telephone +1 212 759 6394
Fax +1 212 759 4038
Web securitycouncilreport.org

Letter from the Executive Director (con't)

Council Ten Years On: More Transparent but How Effective?” In this anniversary year, we reached new records of readership of each of our publication formats, and a

survey of readers overwhelmingly affirmed their usefulness, with some helpful pointers for improvements.

We thank all our contributors for

sustaining our funding and hope that the tributes to the value of our services will be reflected in an ever-wider base of support among member states.

Ian Martin
Executive Director

SCR Mission Statement

SCR's mission is to advance the transparency and effectiveness of the UN Security Council. We seek to achieve this by making available timely, balanced, high-quality information about the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies; by convening

stakeholders to deepen the analysis of issues before the Council and its working methods and performance; by encouraging engagement of the Council with all member states and civil society; and by building capacity on Council practice and procedure through

assisting incoming members and other training and assistance programmes. SCR is independent and impartial; it advocates transparency but does not take positions on the issues before the Council.

2015 Highlights

Output

- 12 *Monthly Forecasts* on the prospective monthly programme of work of the Security Council
- 245 *What's in Blue* stories providing day-to-day coverage of developments in the Security Council
- Seven *Research Reports* on key issues confronting the Security Council

Situations and Issues Covered

- Africa: Burundi, Central Africa/LRA-affected areas, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sahel, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, West Africa/Boko Haram-affected areas and Western Sahara
- Asia: Afghanistan, Central Asia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar

- Europe: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Kosovo and Ukraine
- Middle East: Egypt, Golan Heights (Israel-Syria), Iran, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen
- Latin America: Haiti
- Thematic Issues: Appointment of the next UN Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict, Climate Change, Conflict Prevention, Cooperation with Regional Organisations, Health Crises/Ebola, Human Rights, International Ad-hoc Criminal Tribunals, Natural Resources, Non-Proliferation, Peacebuilding, Peacekeeping, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Rule of Law, Sanctions, Security Council Elections, Security Council Working Methods, Security Sector Reform, Sexual Violence in Conflict, Small Arms, Terrorism and Women, Peace and Security

Outreach Events

- 33 briefings for UN agencies and programmes, human rights and humanitarian NGOs and interested UN member states

Capacity-Building

- Six sessions totalling ten days of training for officials and diplomats from four countries

Readership

- 1,300 print subscribers
- 9,200 e-mail subscribers as of 31 December 2015
- 400,000 visits to SCR's main website (www.securitycouncilreport.org), 230,000 to the *What's in Blue* website (www.whatsinblue.org) and more than 1.2 million page views, across almost all UN member states.

Progress in Achieving Goals

Over the course of 2015, SCR continued to successfully implement our mission. We expanded our overall readership, as measured by the number of digital subscribers and website traffic. In the 12-month period from 1 January through 31 December 2015,

the number of digital subscribers grew by almost ten percent from 8,400 to 9,200. Perhaps more importantly, there was a robust increase in website traffic. In 2015, SCR's main website (securitycouncilreport.org) had 249,654 unique visitors (up 24 percent

from the previous year); 398,020 sessions (up 25 percent); and 904,608 page views (up 21 percent). The *What's in Blue* website (www.whatsinblue.org) also saw an increase in readership, with 90,832 unique visitors in 2015 (up 11.5 percent from the year before);

Progress in Achieving Goals (con't)

227,393 sessions (up 9 percent from the year before); and 341,493 page views (up 7 percent). All in all, SCR's websites had some 340,000 unique visitors across almost all 193 UN member states, for a total of more than 1.2 million page views during 2015.

SCR continued to distribute hard copies of our publications to a large number of constituents: over 1,300 copies of each of the Monthly Forecasts and research reports were sent to key subscribers, including permanent missions of member states to the UN, senior UN officials and UN secretariat staff, NGOs, academic institutions and the media.

SCR's capacity-building programme once again attracted strong interest from incoming elected Security Council members and candidate countries. Four countries participated in the programme in 2015: Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uruguay. To date, SCR has provided capacity-building to 15 countries, including seven of the ten elected members

serving on the Council in 2016 (Angola, Chile, Finland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Thailand and Uruguay).

These positive trends in readership and capacity-building participation seem to indicate that SCR is seen as a valuable tool by our target audiences. This was also confirmed in an online reader survey that SCR conducted in connection with our tenth anniversary in October 2015. The survey, which received over 400 responses, found a very high level of overall satisfaction with SCR's work, as expressed in this selection of quotes:

You provide an invaluable service. Please keep it up! Many thanks.

Your products continue to be accessible, relevant, easily absorbed and informative.

Congratulations. Keep up the innovation!

I am a huge fan; SCR is extremely useful as it is and if you find a way to improve it I will be quite impressed. It really helps me in the field in better understanding dynamics in the Council and predicting what may be coming.

So far so good. Well done. I just wish that I could join to work for you.

I find the review of activities very useful and well done. Congratulations.

I think SCR is fantastic. It is an important part of my work. Thanks for the great work.

Your publications are high-quality and invaluable.

Main Activities in 2015

The Monthly Forecast and What's in Blue

Through our *Monthly Forecast* and *What's in Blue* publications, SCR provides continuous coverage of developments in the Security Council as part of our mission to promote transparency and enhance the effectiveness of the Council, while also creating an important portfolio of analytical publications that offer a comprehensive overview of the work of the Council and serve as an important institutional memory and capacity-building tool.

The *Monthly Forecast*, which is published both in hard copy and on SCR's main website, provides a prospective analysis of the

upcoming monthly programme of work of the Security Council, with sections on recent developments, pertinent human rights-related information, key issues, potential options and dynamics within the Council. It also regularly includes an additional feature entitled "In Hindsight" which, as the title suggests, instead of looking forward to expected Council action in the month ahead, analyses a recent Council decision or developments in a specific area over the years, with a view to assessing the performance of the Council.

What's in Blue (WiB) is an online-only publication that provides analysis of the latest developments in the Security Council on

a day-to-day basis. (The name refers to the final stage of the negotiations of a Council resolution when the text is printed in blue.) It offers insights on upcoming meetings, draft resolutions and status of negotiations, as well as on the activities of subsidiary Council bodies such as sanctions committees. In addition, it offers a daily digest of news stories of special relevance to the Council's work. WiB has its own website (www.whatsinblue.org), but can also be accessed through SCR's main site (www.securitycouncilreport.org).

Looking at the overall output in 2015, it was another busy year for SCR as we strived to provide our readers with timely and

WHAT'S IN BLUE

Insights on the work of the UN Security Council

posted on MON 14 DEC 2015 11:55 AM

Appointment of the Next Secretary-General: Joint Letter Under Silence

A draft joint letter from the Security Council and General Assembly presidents, which will mark the start of the process to select and appoint the next Secretary-General, is under silence until noon today (14 December). Following a meeting between Russia, the UK and the President of the General Assembly (PGA) on 9 December to discuss final unresolved areas, a draft was put under silence procedure on 12 December. Sending out this joint

WHAT'S IN BLUE

Insights on the work of the UN Security Council

posted on FRI 18 DEC 2015 10:30 AM

Syria: Ministerial Meeting and Possible Adoption of a Resolution on a Political Solution

This afternoon (18 December), the Security Council will hold a ministerial-level meeting chaired by US Secretary of State John Kerry. At press time, it was unclear whether agreement would be reached in time to adopt a resolution on the need for a political

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)

relevant coverage of developments in the Council. Deteriorating crises and a more wide-ranging focus on countering terrorism resulted in the Council maintaining the high level of activity seen in recent years. Although it did not take up any new country situations, those already on its agenda required greater attention. Overall, the number of Council decisions—resolutions and presidential statements—mirrored that of 2014, although there was a slight decrease in both public meetings and consultations. The Council adopted 90 decisions (64 resolutions and 26 presidential statements), sustaining the higher number of outcomes registered in 2014 following several years of a downward trend. In addition, 128 press statements were issued, ten fewer than in 2014, but still significantly higher than in previous years. These trends were reflected in the work of SCR.

The deterioration in the situation in Burundi, linked to the controversial presidential elections there in 2015, was reflected in a significant increase in Council meetings to discuss the crisis. SCR provided continuous coverage of these discussions, publishing 16 WiB stories related to Burundi over the course of 2015, compared with five in the preceding 12 months. The Council also devoted more attention to the conflict in Yemen, in particular to the humanitarian situation. SCR followed the deliberations in the Council closely, producing 20 WiB stories on Yemen, in addition to five Monthly Forecast briefs. This represented a significant increase from 2014 when there were only eight WiB stories on Yemen and six briefs. By contrast, there was a marked decline in Council activity on the situation in Ukraine. While SCR in 2014 published 26 stories on Ukraine, there were only eight in 2015.

SCR continued to offer comprehensive coverage of the Council's discussions on Syria, resulting in a total number of 27 WiB stories and 12 Monthly Forecast briefs, which was similar to our 2014 coverage. Council activity on Syria was focused on the humanitarian and chemical weapons tracks, with monthly briefings on both aspects. There were resolutions on the use of chlorine as a weapon, as well as one renewing the authorisation for cross-border aid delivery. Meetings on political developments were less common, with only two taking place. At the end of the year, the Council adopted a resolution on the road map for a peace process which had been largely negotiated outside the Council. These developments

were covered in detail in SCR's reporting.

Other situations that remained high on the Council's agenda included Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. In all of these cases, SCR provided comprehensive coverage of the Council's deliberations.

Regarding thematic issues, countering terrorism was once again a key topic, cutting across a number of agenda items as the Council followed up on the strengthened counter-terrorism framework set in place in 2014, including by adding new reporting obligations on member states and emphasising the importance of disrupting financial flows to terrorists. SCR's coverage included 16 WiB stories and four Monthly Forecast briefs as compared with 12 WiB stories and six briefs in 2014. The reports covered a range of terrorism-related issues, including Council decisions aimed at addressing the growing threat to international peace and security of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the continued activities of Boko Haram, as well as terrorism as a country-specific threat in situations including Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. A number of open debates focusing on new themes, such as the need to counter terrorism among youth, in the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and in relation to human trafficking, were all highlighted in SCR's reporting.

Another noteworthy development reflected in SCR's work was the marked increase in the Council's use of the agenda item "any other business" (AOB) during consultations, to get updates on deteriorating situations or to have issues of concern brought discreetly to the Council's attention. There were 56 substantive discussions under AOB covering a range of issues, including Burkina Faso, Burundi, CAR, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and the Secretary-General appointment process. SCR covered 16 of these in separate WiB stories. While our aim is not to write about all AOB discussions, we endeavour to cover those which are most substantive as part of our efforts to promote greater transparency.

SCR also continued to track the Council's so-called Arria-formula meetings, which are informal gatherings convened at the initiative of a member or members of the Council in order to receive information from individuals or organisations with knowledge of developments on the ground. Due to their informal

nature, they do not appear on the Council's programme of work and are therefore difficult for non-Council members to track. Last year saw a significant increase in the number of Arria-formula meetings, up from seven in 2014 to 17, the highest number since 1996. SCR published separate WiB stories on 16 of the 17 Arria-formula meetings held in 2015, providing information about the briefers and topics discussed.

In addition, SCR reported from the two visiting missions undertaken by the Security Council in 2015—to Haiti from 23-25 January and to Burundi, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia (AU) from 9-13 March. The mission to Haiti was covered in three WiB stories, all of them dispatches from the field written by SCR staff accompanying the Council delegation, while there were four WiB stories on the mission to Africa, including three dispatches from the field.

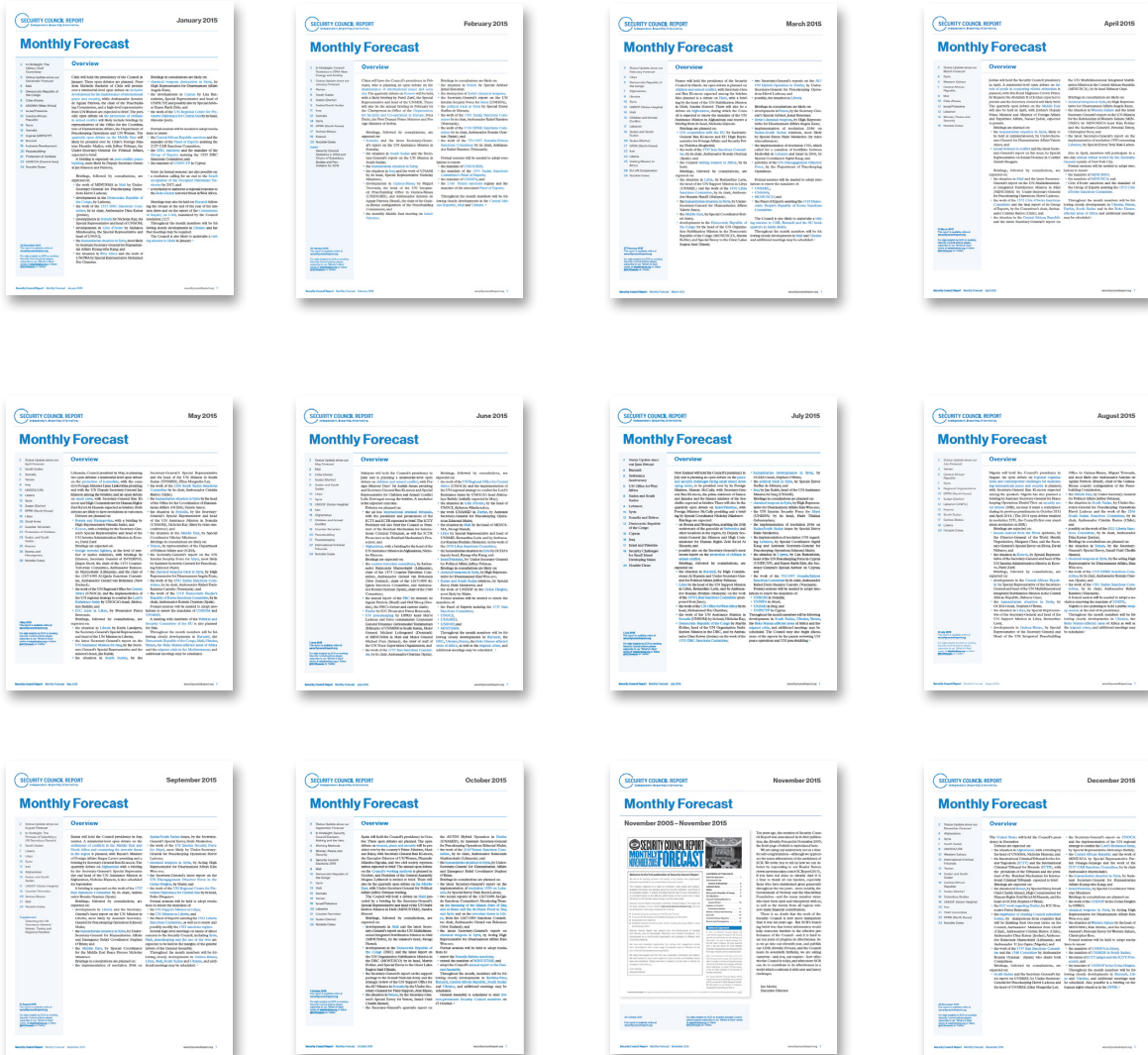
With regard to SCR's coverage of Security Council practice, such as working methods and procedures, in 2015 we added new online features under this section on our website. In particular, we added explanatory essays and up-to-date tables on several Council practices, including:

- Penholders and Chairs
- The Veto
- Procedural Vote
- Arria-Formula Meetings
- Security Council Visiting Missions

Research Publications

In addition to the regular day-to-day coverage of ongoing developments in the Security Council, SCR produced a number of longer research reports in 2015 aimed at providing more in-depth analysis of issues determined to be of particular interest to Council members or that SCR believes deserve greater Council attention. These reports typically provide a historical overview and assessment of previous Council involvement and suggest options for future work on the issue being discussed. When possible, the timing of the publication of these research reports is planned to ensure that they are available to Council members and others as a resource ahead of major Council debates and decisions. They also serve as a tool to track the actual performance of the Security Council in following through on the thematic issues on its agenda and implementing previous commitments made. In 2015, SCR published seven such reports.

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)



Cross-Cutting Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (15 May 2015)

This was SCR's seventh report in a series on this topic that began in 2008. The report covered relevant developments at the thematic level since the previous report, published in December 2013, and analysed Council action relating to the protection of civilians in country-specific situations, with a special focus on South Sudan. It also discussed Council dynamics and outlined some possible options aimed at strengthening the Council's work on this important thematic issue.

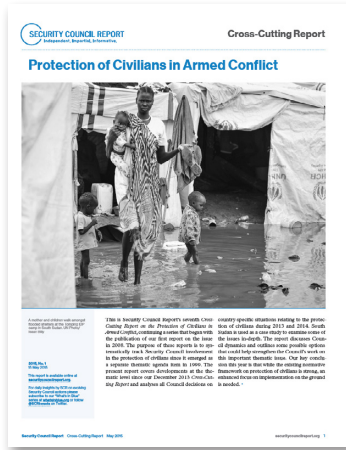
At the country-specific level, the report found that the Council had continued to include protection provisions in nearly all relevant resolutions and presidential statements adopted over the course of 2013 and 2014, in some cases expanding on the

protection language that had existed in previous decisions dealing with the same situation. Two new peacekeeping operations with a protection of civilians mandate were established during the period covered by the report: the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (2013) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (2014), resulting in a total of ten UN peacekeeping operations with a mandate to protect civilians. The trend toward more frequent briefings on country-specific issues by high-level officials from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which began in 2011, continued in 2013 and 2014, increasing significantly in 2014.

The report found that the Council had also been active at the thematic level, holding two open debates on the protection of civilians, the first focusing on effective implementation of protection of civilians mandates in UN peacekeeping operations and the second on the protection challenges of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings. The Council adopted a presidential statement reaffirming its commitment to the protection of civilians, which contained as an annex an updated version of the aide mémoire first adopted in 2002 as a practical guide to facilitate the Council's consideration of protection concerns in a given situation.

Overall, the report found that the Council had spent considerable time managing the deterioration of existing crises and the emergence of new ones with a devastating effect

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)



on civilians. However, despite the Council's efforts as measured by time and outcomes with protection provisions, the report concluded that the actual impact on civilians on the ground had been limited. This was illustrated by a case study on South Sudan, which reviewed the Council's engagement on this intractable protection crisis, while recognising that the complex security and political environment had made protecting civilians and finding a solution to the conflict extremely difficult.

The final section of the report presented some options for the Council's consideration, including with regard to the role of the informal expert group on the protection of civilians. The main conclusion was that a stronger focus was needed on how to implement the existing normative framework on protection issues more effectively in order to enhance its impact on the ground. The report suggested that it would be helpful if the Council received more fine-grained analyses that could serve as a springboard for enhanced strategic thinking on how to ensure that civilians are protected.

Cross-Cutting Report on Children and Armed Conflict (12 June 2015)

This was SCR's seventh thematic report on children and armed conflict, continuing a series that began in 2008. The report covered relevant developments at the thematic level during 2014 and the first half of 2015 and analysed Council decisions in relevant country-specific situations, as well as the output of the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the activities of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. In addition, it covered issues relating to sanctions and

peacekeeping, discussed Council dynamics and outlined possible options aimed at advancing the children and armed conflict agenda.

According to the report, the Security Council largely kept the children and armed conflict agenda on track as it grappled with a mix of old and new complex crises with devastating effects on children, such as those in the Central African Republic (CAR), Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Key to this was the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. Following several divisive years, 2014 was a period when steady progress was made in refining the children and armed conflict agenda.

Led by Luxembourg, the Working Group in 2014 continued with its work of responding to country-specific reports on children and armed conflict. It adopted four conclusions and held ten formal meetings, as well as numerous informal meetings, where reports were discussed in detail and draft working group conclusions negotiated. The Working Group also showed flexibility and embraced innovation, for example by receiving briefings from the field by video teleconference and holding meetings with the AU and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Compared to the last few years, the overall composition of the Council in 2014 was generally more supportive of the children and armed conflict agenda, making it possible to cautiously move the agenda forward. Still, the report concluded that there was an increasingly urgent need for the Working Group to find ways of responding more quickly to new crises as well as to changes in situations already being considered.

The report confirmed the findings of previous cross-cutting reports that the issue of children and armed conflict has been steadily integrated into the Council's country-specific

work over the past ten years. It noted that despite some pushback on human rights and protection issues in recent years, there appeared to be general acceptance of the inclusion of children and armed conflict language in relevant country-specific resolutions and presidential statements. More specifically, the report found that in the previous three years, about 70 percent of relevant country-specific resolutions had some language on children and armed conflict. In 2014, in most relevant resolutions and presidential statements there was increasing attention paid to making the language more consistent and more specific to the particular crisis. Much of this was due to the diligent and systematic manner in which Luxembourg brought language on children and armed conflict to the negotiating table.

Significantly, the incorporation of protection of children provisions into peacekeeping missions with a protection mandate, as well as the inclusion of protection of children designation criteria in new sanctions regimes on situations with a child protection dimension, had become common practice. According to the report, relevant peacekeeping and political mission mandates often had adequate language for stronger child protection activities on the ground. However, in some situations there were clearly problems in implementing these more robust child protection mandates. The report, therefore, suggested that further discussion and thinking on how best to match mandates and needs on the ground might be needed.

Finally, the report noted that Council dynamics on country-specific issues had clearly impacted the effectiveness of the Working Group. It found a direct correlation between the sensitivity of an issue in the

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)



Council and the level of difficulty the Working Group was likely to encounter in adopting conclusions to the Secretary-General's reports on children and armed conflict on the same country-specific situation. This was clearly seen in the length of time it took to reach agreement about the conclusions on the report relating to the conflict in Syria.

Research Report on the Rule of Law (20 August 2015)

Entitled *The Institutional Framework: International Criminal Courts and Tribunals*, this was SCR's third report on the rule of law. It focused on the institutional architecture that the Security Council has established and used to advance the rule of law.

The report analysed in detail the establishment of the two ad hoc international criminal tribunals—the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)—as well as their International Residual Mechanism (MICT), and their relationship with the Security Council. The report also examined the so-called mixed tribunals—the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon—which the Council was involved in establishing. Further, the study reflected on the Council's relatively short yet complex relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Through these case studies, the report concluded that the Council had proved resourceful over the last 20 years in establishing a framework, or “tool box”, to contribute to international peace and security through institutional innovation and creativity. It had established subsidiary bodies in the form of ad hoc criminal tribunals, had provided support to

the Secretary-General in concluding an agreement with Sierra Leone to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and had brought into force the agreement between the UN and Lebanon on the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. It had also taken advantage of the legal power given to it in the ICC Statute to refer situations to the Court under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

At the same time, the report found that the Council had been inconsistent in following up on these significant steps and providing the proper institutional support to enforce its own decisions and ensure the successful completion of the tasks it had entrusted to the judicial institutions. Still, the Council's August 2014 visit to The Hague, where the judicial bodies are located, was seen as an encouraging sign of some degree of Council consensus about the importance of the rule of law in addressing international peace and security.

The report concluded that whatever form or institutional measure the Council decided to take in any given situation to advance justice, it would be critically important that it followed through on its own decisions and provided support and assistance where needed to the judicial institution. It would also be important to obligate member states to cooperate with the institution in question. The report noted that without such consistent institutional cooperation and backing, the court or tribunal would find it hard to fulfil the task entrusted to it by the Council, thus jeopardising the legitimacy and authority of the Council itself.

Special Research Report on Security Council Elections 2015 (2 October 2015)

The purpose of this report was to assist the wider UN membership in their preparations

for the election on 15 October of five new non-permanent members to the Security Council. (Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay were elected.) The report, which is produced on an annual basis to coincide with the elections, presented the various candidate countries, analysed possible issues with regard to the composition of the Council and provided an overview of relevant UN Charter provisions and rules of procedure for election to the Council, as well as historical background and established practices.

Research Report on Appointing the UN Secretary-General (16 October 2015)

The purpose of this report was to provide relevant factual background on the history of the process and procedure for the appointment of the Secretary-General, and to review proposals for reform of the process and recent Security Council and General Assembly developments in this regard, as Council members were starting to prepare for the selection in 2016 of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's successor. The report was intended as a starting point for additional SCR coverage of the selection process leading up to the final decision, including information and analysis relating to new developments, Council dynamics and possible options at various stages of the process.

Research Report on the Veto (19 October 2015)

This report on the use of the veto in the context of Security Council decision-making discussed initiatives advocating veto restraint and described the impact of the veto on Council outcomes. In particular, the report reviewed three initiatives that had been garnering considerable attention in the lead up to the UN's 70th anniversary on 24 October aimed at

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)

addressing one of the more challenging issues facing the organisation—how the Security Council can more effectively prevent and halt mass atrocities. They included a French proposal; an initiative presented by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group; and a reform proposal by the Elders. The purpose of the report was to give an overview of the prevailing discourse on the veto and place it in its historical context. It provided some background on the history of the veto; described and analysed the three different initiatives on veto restraint in the case of atrocity crimes; explored how the veto and the threat of its use impact Security Council decision-making; and analysed how permanent Council members and the wider membership viewed the three initiatives. Also included in the report were charts on the historical use of the veto.



Research Report on UN Sanctions and Natural Resources (20 November 2015)

The seventh report published in 2015 was entitled UN Sanctions: Natural Resources. It was a follow-up to SCR's first research report on sanctions from November 2013, which provided an overview of the Council's sanctions practice. The 2015 report provided an historical and institutional context for understanding UN natural resource sanctions, analysed ten existing sanctions regimes that had or once had natural resource-related measures (or where monitoring and reporting had provided evidence of natural resource-related conflict dynamics), comparatively assessed sanctions design and implementation, critically examined common assumptions regarding links between natural resources and conflict, analysed political dynamics among Council members and other actors and suggested policy options. Like its predecessor, the intent of

the report was to make a constructive contribution to an ongoing dialogue regarding UN sanctions among a diverse set of stakeholders, including Council members, and to further stimulate critical debate.

SCR and Human Rights

Human rights feature prominently in the UN Charter. While in the past, the protection of human rights was seen as being largely outside the scope of the mandate of the Security Council, its attitude today is very different. The Council plays an increasingly important role in ensuring the protection of civilians, contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights and supporting international criminal justice mechanisms. While other UN bodies, notably the Human Rights Council, are specifically mandated to address human rights, the Security Council is uniquely equipped to mandate action and enforce decisions that can have a positive impact on the state of human rights in the world.

These changes in the Security Council's approach are reflected in the work of SCR as we seek to consistently highlight the responsibilities of the Council relating to human rights and international justice. SCR systematically tracks Council performance on these issues through our comprehensive analyses of Council decisions in country-specific situations. In this way, SCR is able to assess the extent to which human rights and protection concerns have been addressed and whether the Council is consistently implementing commitments made in previous decisions, in particular in areas such as ensuring compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and promoting accountability for violations of the law.

Most of SCR's research reports have a strong focus on human rights and accountability issues, in particular relating to the protection of civilians. Also, as noted above, the Monthly Forecast includes a separate section on human rights-related developments within the UN system for each of the country-specific situations covered. These sections typically highlight relevant developments in the Human Rights Council, findings of its mechanisms and activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 2015, SCR undertook research on the evolving relationship of the Security Council with human rights. Preliminary findings were presented at a ministerial-level meeting hosted by the German and Jordanian Foreign Ministers at the German Mission to the UN

during the high-level segment of the General Assembly general debate in September. SCR has built on these findings to further strengthen our focus on the important linkages that exist between the protection of human rights and conflict prevention and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Capacity-Building

SCR's website and published reports constitute a unique resource and capacity-building tool for diplomats and others seeking to acquire knowledge about the Security Council and its activities and deepen their understanding of its practices and procedures. In addition, SCR has developed a capacity-building programme to enhance the technical and procedural performance of elected Security Council members. It is designed as an intensive exercise comprised of lectures, case studies and interactive exchanges with course participants, ideally before the elected member joins the Council. Participants are typically either candidate countries or newly-elected members about to join the Council. The programme offers an overview of the Council's mandate, practices and procedures, working methods, subsidiary bodies and internal and external dynamics. It normally also includes sessions on country-specific situations and thematic issues of particular interest to the participating country.

In 2015, SCR provided capacity-building to Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uruguay, as well as to a group of journalists from New Zealand media. As before, the actual training was tailored to the specific needs and interest of each participating group and therefore differed from case-to-case, comprising several individualised sessions. To date, 15 countries have participated in the programme either in New York or in their respective capitals (Angola, Chile, Finland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Thailand and Uruguay). In addition, media members from Angola and New Zealand participated in specifically-designed sessions. The programme is offered to all interested candidate countries or elected Council members.

In addition to the training of individual countries, SCR continued its cooperation with the Security Council Affairs Division of the UN Secretariat on an annual seminar on Security Council sanctions for the newly elected Council members. The 2015 seminar was held on 1 December and provided an opportunity for the

Main Activities in 2015 (con't)

five incoming members—Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine, and Uruguay—to familiarise themselves with the various sanctions regimes as they were preparing to join the Council.

Outreach

Over the course of 2015, SCR continued to conduct extensive outreach activities, mainly through briefings and discussions, targeting a number of key stakeholders, including Council members, UN member states, the UN Secretariat and agencies, foreign policy institutes, NGOs, academic institutions and the media. Our monthly discussions of the issues before the Security Council continued to attract strong interest from our three key constituents: NGOs, UN agencies and programmes and UN member states.

The monthly meeting with NGOs was regularly attended by Action Against Hunger, Amnesty International, CARE, Caritas Internationalis, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Crisis Action, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect,

Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, International Federation for Human Rights, International Rescue Committee, Jacob Blaustein Institute, Oxfam International, Refugees International, Women's Refugee Commission, the World Federalist Movement and World Vision.

The monthly discussion with UN agencies and programmes was regularly attended by representatives of the New York offices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UN Women, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Bank.

The monthly meeting with UN member states was regularly attended by some 20 countries, including SCR donors and

recently departed elected members of the Security Council.

SCR also regularly hosted meetings of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council and continued to make its conference room available for other Council-related events, in order to facilitate and encourage focused discussions on the work of the Council.

SCR's Executive Director and Deputy Director, as well as other staff, spoke at a number of roundtables, conferences and panel discussions over the course of 2015.

Tenth Anniversary

SCR marked its tenth anniversary with a high-level symposium at which its first two Executive Directors, Colin Keating and Bruno Stagno Ugarte, opened a reflection on "The Security Council Ten Years On: More Transparent But How Effective?" Respondents and discussants included permanent representatives of countries which were current, recent or likely future members of the Security Council, as well as senior UN officials.

Financial Situation

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (31 DECEMBER 2014 AND 31 DECEMBER 2015)

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,067,388	\$ 620,958
Grants receivable (net)	741,836	1,646,368
Security deposits	130,744	130,744
Prepaid expenses	399	15,504
Total Assets	\$ 1,940,367	\$ 2,413,574
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 97,843	\$ 120,457
Deferred rent	45,474	60,845
Total Liabilities	143,317	181,302
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted (including cumulative foreign currency losses of \$38,995 and \$40,165 in 2015 and 2014, respectively)	902,315	\$ 516,458
Temporarily restricted	894,735	1,715,814
	1,797,050	2,232,272
	\$ 1,940,367	\$ 2,413,574

Financial Situation

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES (YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014 AND 31 DECEMBER 2015)

	2015	2014
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Grants and contributions	\$ 2,137,850	\$ 3,768,771
Other income	0	7
Total revenue and support	2,137,850	3,768,778
EXPENSES		
Program services	2,273,302	2,395,940
Management and general services	207,472	355,801
Fundraising	53,303	57,742
Total expenses	2,534,077	2,809,483
Change in Net Assets	(435,222)	919,130
Net assets (beginning of the year)	2,232,272	1,313,142
Net assets (end of year)	1,797,050	2,232,272

List of Donors in 2015

SCR is grateful to its generous donors. They provide the financial support which is necessary for the organisation to achieve programme objectives and continue to expand its products and services to UN member states and other stakeholders at no cost. In 2015, SCR received funding from the following governments and foundations:

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Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York

(Reflects Membership and Affiliation as of 31 December 2015)

Staff

Ian Martin

Executive Director

Joanna Weschler

Deputy Executive Director and Director of Research

Amanda Roberts

Coordinating Editor and Senior Research Analyst

Shamala Kandiah Thompson

What's in Blue Editor and Senior Research Analyst

Paul Romita

Deputy Editor of What's in Blue and Senior Research Analyst

Astrid Forberg Ryan

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Victor Casanova Abos

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Eran Sthoeger

Research Analyst

Benjamin Villanti

Research Analyst

Robbin VanNewkirk

Publications Coordinator

Lindiwe Knutson

Research Assistant

Maritza Tenerelli

Administrative Assistant

Reflects SCR staff as of 31 December 2015